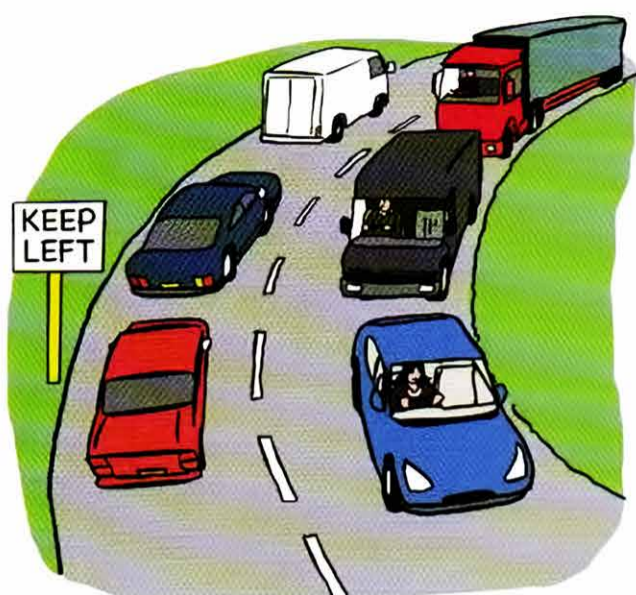


Be/get used to something (I'm used to ...)

A

Study this example situation:



Lisa is American, but she lives in Britain. When she first drove a car in Britain, she found it very difficult because she had to drive on the left, not on the right. Driving on the left was strange and difficult for her because:

She **wasn't used to it**.

She **wasn't used to driving** on the left.

But after a lot of practice, driving on the left became less strange. So:

She **got used to driving** on the left.

Now it's no problem for Lisa:

She **is used to driving** on the left.

B

I'm used to something = it is not new or strange for me:

- Paul lives alone. He doesn't mind this because he has lived alone for 15 years. It is not strange for him. He **is used to it**. He **is used to living** alone.
- I bought some new shoes. They felt a bit strange at first because I **wasn't used to them**.
- Our new apartment is on a very busy street. I expect we'll **get used to the noise**, but at the moment it's very disturbing.
- Helen has a new job. She has to get up much earlier now than before – at 6.30. She finds this difficult because she **isn't used to getting** up so early.
- Katherine's husband is often away from home. She doesn't mind this. She **is used to him being** away.

C

After **be/get used** you cannot use the infinitive (**to do / to drive** etc.). We say:

- She is used **to driving** on the left. (*not* She is used to drive)

When we say 'I **am used to** something', **to** is a *preposition*, not a part of the infinitive.

So we say:

- We're not used **to the noise**. / We're not used **to it**.
- Paul is used **to living** alone. (*not* Paul is used to live)
- Lisa had to get used **to driving** on the left. (*not* get used to drive)

D

Do not confuse **I am used to doing** and **I used to do**:

I am used to (doing) something = it isn't strange or new for me:

- I **am used to the weather** in this country.
- I **am used to driving** on the left because I've lived in Britain a long time.

I used to do something = I did it regularly in the past but no longer do it. You can use this only for the past, not for the present. (See Unit 18.)

The structure is 'I **used to do**' (*not* I **am used to do**):

- I **used to drive** to work every day, but these days I usually go by bike.
- We **used to live** just outside the town, but now we live near the centre.